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REPORT

OF THE

WEST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY

FOR

1894.

We invite all persons who sympathize with our aims and methods to become members of our Society, whether they can attend our meetings or not. The mere avowal of their sympathy. implied in membership, will help us; and even if they cannot support the Society financially—still in their own circle of friends they can make the Society known and spread its principles. For financial support we shall depend upon regular voluntary contributions. The only condition of membership is moral sympathy with our principles and aims.

I.—THE SOCIETY IN 1894.

The year 1894, although the third year since the original foundation of the WEST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY, has been practically the first in which the Society has been able to devote itself steadily and without interruption from external circumstances to the development and extension of its avowed aims and work. The result has been most encouraging. Not only has the work of the Society been solidified and extended; but there has also grown up among the members a feeling of comradeship and common interest, which is, perhaps, the best augury for the effective continuance of that work. The Committee believes that the Society has become a potent and valued influence among its members, and that the fellowship which it offers has introduced into many lives an element long sought for. expressions of interest and pleasure which have reached the Committee, not only from old friends of the ethical movement, but also from many whose attention was first called to the movement by our Society, seem to indicate that there is a very useful and encouraging future before us.

The main centre of the Society's activity during the year has continued to be at Princes' Hall, where the audiences at the Sunday Morning Lectures have steadily grown in size; and there is a general feeling among the members of the Committee, and, indeed, in the Society generally, that these meetings should be "made as strong, helpful, and expressive of the spirit of our movement as possible. Strangers who come should find themselves enriched by communion and fellowship with us in devotion to the ideal of life. It is this human but impersonal communion in truth and kindness which the modern soul is fast losing but yearns for still; or else in despair of finding, gives itself over to the service of the meaner self. As individuals, we must at these Sunday assemblings be made aware of the larger Self of humanity, and lose and find ourselves in it. This social Self, consciously felt and known, is the truth and power which sanctifies, and quickens, and gladdens. Only this ethical fellowship can meet the spiritual need of our

day, which, being denied its normal fulfilment, is manifesting itself either in occult and unhealthy cravings, or in moral indifference and death."*

The Society has sought to keep in touch also with the more public social interests of the day, not only by holding discussions from time to time among its members, but also by cooperating with other societies in seeking practical public ends. A conference of delegates from our own and four other ethical societies in London and from the Progressive Association, met in February and the following months to consider what steps, if any, should be taken in connection with the London School Board Election of November, 1894. While it was decided that the ethical societies, as such, should take no active part in the election, and issue no manifesto, a series of questionst on points more immediately interesting to ethical societies was drawn up and sent to all the candidates for the School Board; and the names of those whose answers were satisfactory were announced to the Society. In May three delegates were appointed by the Committee to attend a Poor Law Conference convened by the London Reform Union. In terms of a motion passed at the last Annual General Meeting, Dr. Coupland was requested to act as the Society's representative on the committee formed to consider the question of an International Union of Ethical Societies. On the invitation of our Committee, the East London Ethical Society and the South London Ethical Society also adopted Dr. Coupland as their representative for the same purpose.

The Sunday classes for the Ethical Instruction of Children are referred to on a later page of this report; but it may be here mentioned that the single class of last year is now represented by four, to which it is hoped a fifth will shortly

be added.

In accordance with a motion passed at the last Annual General Meeting, a series of Quarterly Sunday Morning Meetings has been held during 1894, "for the purpose of affording an opportunity for the members of the Society to express their opinions on subjects affecting the welfare of the Society, or of public import." These discussions have been of great interest, and they have also been beneficial to

^{*} From A Letter to the Members and Friends of the West London Ethical Society. From Stanton Coit, October, 1894; to be obtained gratis at the Society's meetings.

[†] See Appendix to this Report.

the Society both by stimulating the interest of members in practical questions, and by encouraging a feeling of fellowship and sympathy among them. The subject of the first discussion, begun on April 8th and adjourned to and concluded on May 20th, was "Religious Education in the Board Schools." The Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, M.L.S.B., and Mr. F. J. Gould accepted the Committee's invitation to take part in this discussion and a resolution was passed expressing the conviction of the meeting that it could "see no permanent settlement of the religious controversy in educational matters, except by the substitution of systematic moral instruction for the present so-called religious teaching." On July 1st the quarterly meeting of members discussed the financial position of the Society, and the means to be adopted to increase its income so as to keep pace with the demand for the extension of Ethical work. On December 16th, Mr. Graham Wallas, M.L.S.B., on the invitation of the Committee, kindly introduced a discussion on "The Growing Duties of London Citizenship," in which many members took part.

At the Annual General Meeting, held on Jan. 28th, 1894, Mr. Leslie Stephen was unanimously elected President of the Society; and on Feb. 11th he delivered a lecture before the Society on "Luxury," and on Nov. 18th another on

" Heredity."

One of the most important events in the private history of the Society in 1894, was Dr. Stanton Coit's return from America in April, to take up the duties of Organizing Lecturer. Since his return Dr. Coit has not only energetically devoted himself to the immediate work of the West London Ethical Society, but he has also lectured on Sunday evenings twice a month to the East London Ethical Society (the lectures being preceded by an Ethical Class for Adults), and once a month to the South London Ethical Society, besides addressing numerous other societies both in London and elsewhere. In another sphere also Dr. Coit has done valuable service to the ethical cause by the publication of 'The Message of Man: a Book of Ethical Scriptures Gathered from Many Sources and Arranged' (London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.; 1895). This collection of the best utterances of all ages concerning the moral life of man, so arranged as to show their identity of spirit, is a manual well adapted to quicken and to fortify the movement which the West London Ethical Society was founded to promote.

II.—THE SUNDAY MORNING MEETINGS.

The following is a list of the thirty lectures delivered to the Society at Princes' Hall, during 1894:—

Lecturer.

Subject.

	,
Jan. 7. Mr. GRAHAM WALLAS	Piers Plowman.
,, 14. Mr. J. H. MUIRHEAD	Abstract and Practical Ethics: a
in 14 J. II. MOIRHEAD	
D- D	Reply to Criticism.
,, 21. Dr. Bass	The Evolution of Ethics.
Feb. 4. Mr. J. A. Hobson	Over-specialisation in Work and
	Life.
" II. MR. LESLIE STEPHEN	Luxury.
-0 34-1 T C 34 77	
,, IS. MR. J. S. MCKENZIE	Self-Assertion and Self-Denial.
" 25. Mr. Geo. Kennan	The Siberian Convict Mines.
Mar. 4. Mr. Bernard Bosanquet	Novel Reading.
", II. REV. P. H. WICKSTEED	Jesus of Nazareth.
", 18. Mr. HERBERT RIX	Tolstoi: Prophet and Ascetic.
April I. DR. W. C. COUPLAND	The Ethical Movement in Ger-
TAPAN AL DIG THE C. COULDAND	
ry Dn Corm	many.
", 15. Dr. Coit	New York and London: a Social
The state of the s	Contrast.
,, 22. ,,	Heresy.
,, 29. ,,	Asceticism.
Mary 6	A Larger Liberty for Women.
	Conscience Christiania
,, 27. ,,	Conscience, Christianity, and the
w'	London School Board.
June 3. ,,	Fourier's Dream.
,, IO. ,,	Meum and Tuum.
,, 17. ,,	Without God in the World.
,, 24. ,,	Natural Law in the Moral World.
Oot =	
Oct. 7. ,,	Ought Right to use Might? a
	Criticism of Tolstoi.
·,, I4. ,,	The Moral Scepticism of Mr.
	Balfour and Mr. Kidd.
,, 21. ,,	Does Evolution justify the ways of
,,	God to Man?
., 28	
,, 28, ,,	The Redeeming Power of the
AT	Social Conscience.
Nov. 4. ,,	Savonarola and the Florentines.
,, II. ,,	The effect of Woman's Social
	Status upon her character.
,, 18. Mr. Leslie Stephen	Heredity.
D- O	
,, 25. DR. COIT	Spiritual Isolation and the Ethical
D	Fellowship.
Dec. 2. ,,	The Whence and Whither of
	Human Life.
,, 9. ,,	The Knowledge of Evil.

Some changes in the order of the proceedings at the Sunday morning meetings were introduced in the course of the year. Owing to the kindness of some members of the Society, the Committee was enabled to try fully once more, without expense to the Society, the experiment of having instrumental music at the meetings. The result has been so satisfactory, and the expressions of approval so general, that the Committee has resolved to continue the music during 1895, and to include its cost in the ordinary expenses of the Society. Efforts to obtain either a permanent pipe-organ or a satisfactory portable organ have proved unsuccessful, so that for the present at least the music will remain in the hands of Mr. John Saunders's string quartett.

Numerous requests have reached the Committee for the printing and publishing of the Society's lectures, but considerations of expense have hitherto prevented the adoption

of the suggestion.

III.—THE ETHICAL CLASSES.

Very soon after the establishment of the Society, the subject of the Ethical Instruction of Children began to be pressed on the attention of the members and the Committee, and its importance was recognised from the first. School Board election, the discussion on religious education in our own Society, and the general meeting of the Ethical delegates, have brought the matter into even greater prominence during the past year. Besides this, the requests for assistance, and the strong interest shown in the subject by parents and others, convinced the Committee that something was required more practical than discussions and conferences. The Education Sub-Committee therefore, on which all the teachers (including several not members of the Society) have worked, has devoted much time and energy to the establishment of Ethical Classes. The general objects and methods of these have already been described in a special leaflet, issued by the Committee in December, and therefore need not be repeated here. The chief difficulty has been not in finding new centres of work, but in finding a sufficient and efficient supply of teachers. The Society numbers several trained teachers among its members, but practically none trained in ethical teaching; so that those

who were ready to give their services as ethical teachers had to feel their way along new paths. But an attempt to make the experience of each teacher contribute to the knowledge of all has been made by holding periodical meetings for discussion and criticism. The success which has attended the classes already established proves that there is ample scope in this direction; and it is earnestly hoped that those who are interested in this subject will, if possible, also become teachers.

There are now four Ethical Classes managed under the direction of the Society:—

At HAMPSTEAD, with an average attendance of 18.

At Norting Hill, with an average attendance of about 7.

At Peckham, with an average attendance of 12. At Westbourne Park, quite recently undertaken.

The Hampstead Class having grown too large for the private house in which it originally met, now meets at the Bijou Hall, Finchley Road, the rent and other expenses having hitherto been paid by subscriptions from friends especially interested in this class. The Notting Hill Class still enjoys private hospitality. The Peckham Class is more immediately under the auspices of the South London Ethical Society, and meets at Chepstow Hall, High Street, Peckham. The Westbourne Park class, which meets at Harrow Road, was first assembled by the Kensal Green Branch of the Social Democratic Federation, but is now managed by the Society's Education Sub-Committee.

At the close of the year, the Committee was invited to establish an Ethical Class in Kentish Town; and this will be opened in January, 1895.

IV.—PRINCIPLES, AIMS, AND RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

a. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND AIMS.

Our Principles are :-

1.—That the good life has a claim upon us in virtue of its supreme worth to humanity.

2.—It therefore rests for its justification on no external authority, and on no system of supernatural rewards and

punishments, but on the nature of man, as a rational and

social being.

3.—In practice it is to be realized by accepting and acting in the spirit of such common obligations as are enjoined by the relationships of family and society, in so far as these are a means to a fuller human development.

Our Aims are :-

1.—To assist individual and social efforts after right living.

2.—To free the current ideal of what is right from all that is merely traditional or self-contradictory, and thus to widen

and perfect it.

3.—To assist in constructing a Theory or Science of Right, which, starting with the reality and validity of moral distinctions, shall explain their mental and social origin, and connect them in a logical system of thought.

The means we adopt as best fitted to attain these ends are :-

- 1.—Sunday Morning and Evening Meetings of the Society and its friends,—when discourses, attempting to enlighten the moral judgment and to enkindle conscience, will be delivered.
- 2.—The formation of local Ethical Societies and the establishment of Ethical Classes and Neighbourhood Guilds in London and its vicinity, with a view to instruction in civic duties and in ways of innocent pleasure, and for the promotion of systematic reforms in regard to such matters as health, leisure, and industrial conditions.
- 3.—Ethical lectures to be delivered before such societies or meetings as may be willing to hear them.
- 4.—Week-day lectures on the theory of ethics and the history of morals.
- 5.—The publication of such pamphlets, periodicals, and books as will advance the principles of the Society.
- 6.—Week-day meetings of the members of the Society for the discussion of its work and aims, and for the adoption of new plans.
- 7.—The organization of a union of the Ethical Societies of Great Britain, for the more effective carrying out of the objects common to them all.

b. RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

Adopted July 9th, 1893, and Amended at Annual General Meeting of the Society, January 28th, 1894.

NAME AND OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY.

I.—The name of the Society shall be THE WEST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY.

II.—The object of the Society is to contribute, both by precept and in practice, to spread moral influences on a non-dogmatic basis.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

III.—The members of the Society shall be all those who sympathize with its aims, and who sign and present an application for membership.

IV.—The Committee shall have power to remove names from the register of members, for some definite cause of offence, to be stated in the resolution removing them; the Committee's action being subject to an appeal to the Society.

V.—Members who do not subscribe to the funds of the Society shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society until they have been members for six months, or, in the case of old members, until they have signified in writing to the Secretary their desire to remain members of the Society; and any member failing to signify such desire for the space of eighteen months shall, ipso facto, cease to be a member of the Society. All other members of full age shall be qualified to vote on all questions.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY,

VI.—The honorary officers of the Society shall be:-

A President.

A Treasurer.

A Secretary or Secretaries.

An Auditor.

VII.—The President, Auditor, and a Committee of fourteen members, shall be elected annually at the Annual Business Meeting of the Society. The Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretaries shall be chosen annually by the Committee from its own members.

VIII.—The election of Auditor and Committee shall proceed by signed nominations, forwarded fourteen clear days before the day fixed for the election to one of the Secretaries, who shall send a list of the nominations to each member entitled to vote, four clear days before the election. The election shall be by ballot. The President shall be elected by a vote of the General Meeting.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

IX.—The Annual Business Meeting of the Society shall be held in January. Four clear days before that Meeting the Committee shall circulate a Report and Balance Sheet made up to December 31st. The consideration of these and the election of officers shall take precedence of all other business.

X.—Special General Meetings may be called by request of the Committee or of twenty members of the Society, forwarded in writing to the Secretary, who shall summon such meeting within twenty-one days of the receipt of such request. At all meetings twenty-one members shall form a quorum.

XI.—No business of which fourteen days' previous notice has not been given to the members shall be considered at

any General Meeting.

XII.—The Chairman shall have only a casting vote. In case of equality, when the Chairman declines to give his casting vote, the previous question shall be considered as carried.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.

XIII.—Other Societies may become branches of, or be affiliated to, the West London Ethical Society, under conditions to be determined by the Society.

THE COMMITTEE.

XIV.—The Committee shall meet at least once a month during the working session. Five members shall form a quorum.

XV.—Vacancies on the Committee may be filled up by coöptation.

XVI.—The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees.

XVII.—The reference to every Sub-Committee shall be laid down by the Committee in the resolution appointing it.

XVIII.—The Committee may allow Sub-Committees to add to their number by coöptation, provided that the names of coöpted members be approved by the Committee, and provided that the Chairman of the Sub-Committee shall be a member of the General Committee.

XIX.—If any question arises not provided for by these rules, the Committee shall have power to act on behalf of the

Society.

ALTERATIONS IN THE RULES.

XX.—These Rules shall not be altered except by a majority of those present and voting at any General Meeting.

V.—THE SOCIETY AT THE END OF 1894.

There are at present 382 names on the register of members. Although of course the great majority of members live in London, the wide-spread active interest in the Society's work and aims is indicated by the fact that it has members not only in many other parts of Great Britain, but also in France, the United States, India, New Zealand, and elsewhere abroad.

A. Officers and Committee for 1894.

President .- Mr. LESLIE STEPHEN.

Executive Committee.

Dr. Bass. Dr. STANTON COIT. Dr. W. C. COUPLAND.

Mrs. Ruth Homan. | Miss Routledge. Miss B. E. Lyon. Mrs. Morgan-Browne Mr.S. S. Fechheimer.* Mr. H. W. Preston.* Miss E. J. Troup.

Mrs. STANBURY. Mr. F. H. TRENCH.

Hon. Secretary .- Mr. FINDLAY MUIRHEAD, 10 Leighton Crescent, N.W. Hon. Treasurer .- Mr. Russell Rea, 60 Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.

Organising Lecturer .- Dr. Stanton Coit, 7, Leighton Crescent, N.W.

^{*} Mr. Preston and Mr. Fechheimer were coöpted in place of Mr. Corrie Grant and Mr. Champion, who resigned owing to the pressure of other engagements.

List of Members and Subscribers.

It is extremely desirable that all Members, other than Subscribers, should, at the beginning of the year, intimate their wishes as to the keeping of their names on the register. And it is particularly requested that all changes of address be notified to the Hon. Secretary.

An asterisk is prefixed to the names of Subscribers who are not Members of the Society.

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Allen, Miss	0	5	0		0	0	0
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Anderson, W. Curling \	3	3	0		0	5	0
Anderson, Mrs	3	2		,	0	2,	0
Anonymous	0	5	0		2	2	0
Appleford, Miss Louise	0	5	0	Fleischl, P. von	I	I	0
Bailey, Mrs	0	2	6	Fleischl, Mrs. von		_	
Bale, H. J.	5	5	0	Foster, Miss	I	I	0
Bale, Mrs	J	J		Frechet, L	2	0	0
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*Bell, F	0	5	0	Fry, Miss E. P	0	5	10
*Benecke, Miss Ida	O	7	0	Ganter, T	5	.0	0
Benny, James	0	2	6	Gardiner, E. M	0	5	0
Betts, Saul	0	IO	6	Gibson, Miss M	I	0	0
Bidlake, L	I	0	0	Glubb, P. C	I	I	0
Bonavia, Dr	2	0	0	Gower, A. W	Ι	1	0
*Bonn, Leo	10	10	0	Grant, Corrie	4	4	0
Borchardt, Miss H	0	10	0	Grant, Annie)		TO	0
Borchardt, Miss M	0	5	0	Grey, Mrs	0	2	6
Brandreth, H. S	5	0	0	Grinling, C. H Gruner, Miss Alice	0	0	0
Browning, Miss K	0	10	0	0 351 7	I	0	0
Buck, Mrs	I	I	0	Hall, Walter		0	
Bückle, G	0	5	0		2	2	0
Burridge, S. E. P	0	I	0	Hall, Mrs) Hall, Miss Sara	0	2	6
Cabot, Miss Theodora	0	4	2	Harcourt, A. Vernon	0	~	
Campbell, Dudley	5	Ó	6	Harcourt, Hon.Mrs.R.V.	4	0	0
Carlyon, Miss L	0	2	0	Hart, I. W	0	10	0
Carter, Miss A. Bonham	2	0	6	Haywood, F. J	2	0	0
Champion, W. F	0	2	6	Hertz, H. A			
Christie, Miss Eva			0	Hertz, Mrs	I	0	0
Clarke, Miss Jessie Clarke, Dr. and Mrs	0	5		Herz, Max	_		
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List of Members and Subscribers-(CON.)

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Hurst, J. T		£	0	0	Pounceby, S I I of	
Hutton, A. W	1	4			Prentice, Ridley	0
Hutton, Mrs	-	I	I	0	Prentice, Mrs	0
Jacobs, Reuben	,,,	I	0	0	D4 A1C 1	Э
Jenkins, Miss		0	5	0	Decates Miss	0
Jones, G. Farewell)	0	3	0	Preston, H. Westbury	,
Jones, Mrs. G. F.	1	10	0	0		0
Jones, LtCol., A. S.		I	1	0	Daniel T D	2
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Kapteyn, Albert)		5		Rea, Russell	,
Kapteyn, Mrs	1	2	2	0	Rea, Mrs 50 0 0)
Keats, Chas. H.	,,	0	10	6	Rea, Miss Hope I I	3
Kelday, Mrs		o	10	6	Rée, Frau Dr. Anton 1 10	
Kemp, Miss Fanny		I	0	0	Robinson, Miss 0 2	
King, Mrs		10	0	0		
Law, Miss F. A.		I	I	0	Rodd, Handscombe Combon South)
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Lyon, J. A		5	0	0	Rowland, E. R 0 5 0	
McGregor, Miss M.		0	2	6	Sainsbury, A. F	
Martin, B. E		0	IO	0	Sainsbury, Mrs)
Matthews, H. E.		0	5	0	Sainsbury, S. F 1 5 0	,
Maybury, Miss		0	IO	o	Sainsbury, Miss Grace E. 0 10 6	
Michaelis, Mme.		0	5	0	Sainsbury, Leicester 0 15 0	
Mitchell, C. F. W.		0	15	6	Scott, Mrs o 10 o	
Mond, Mrs		5	I	o	Schuster, Dr	
Moon, E. Ivens		0	2	6	Schuster, Mrs 2 2 0	}
Moore, Mrs. R		0	5	0	Schwann, Mrs. Charles E. 44 10 8	
Morant, Miss A. C.		0	5	0	Shand, A 2 2 0	
Morgan-Browne, Mrs.		0		0	Sharpe, Reedford 0 10 0	
Morgan-Browne, Miss	H.	0	5	0	Sim, Miss 5 0 0	
Moscheles, F		0	-	6	Simpson, Mrs 0 2 6	
	***	0		6	Singleton, A. W o 10 o	
Moxon, C. F.		I	0	0	Smellie, G 0 10 0	
Mudie, T. R	1				Spensley, J. Calvert I I o	
Mudie, Mrs	-	IO	0	0	Spiller, Gustav I O O	
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Muirhead, Miss A. C.		2	2	0	Stacey, Miss 0 4 6	
Muirhead, Miss C. M.		I	0	0	Stammartz, Miss Louise o 5 o	
Muirhead, Findlay		6	6	0	Stanbury, Mrs 3 3 0	
Muirhead, J. H.		0	2	6	Statham, Miss 0 10 6	
Munro, Mrs. Crawford	1	0	5	0	Steede, E o 1 o	
Neville, Miss Edith		I	I	0	Stephen, Leslie (2 years) 4 4 0	
Nordgren, Miss Anna		0	5	0	Sutherland, G. S I o o	
Odgers, James		0	10	0	Swinton, A. W I o o	
Oldfield, Alan		0	5	0	Terrero, Mrs. M o 5 o	
Pagliardini, Cav. Tito			IO	0	Terrero M	
Palmer, W. H		I	I	0	Thompson, A. H I I o	
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List of Members and Subscribers-(CON.)

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Thornton, Thos	0	10	6	Watts, W)	2	О	0
Thunder, Mrs. E	0	5	0	Watts, Mrs)	~	0	
Trench, F. H	-	0		Webster, Wm		0	5	0
Trench, Mrs	1	U	U	White, L. H		0	10	0
Troup, J	6	I	0	Wilson, Miss E.		0	2	6
	0	10	0	Woodhouse, H. A.		I	I	0
	0	5	0	Wrangel, Miss		0	2	6
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*Waterlow, Mrs.	2	2	U					

Adler, Felix. Alexander, Arthur. Andrews, Miss. Argent, A. Aspland, Mrs. Arthur. Ayling, Geo. F. Baker, Daniel. Baker, J. C. Barker, A. Barnes, W. J. Bass, Dr. Bass, Mrs. Batteson, V. J. Batteson, Mrs. Baumann, Miss A. Beal, Miss A. H. Bick, W. H. Bidmead, Miss F. Billamy, N. B. Blackman, Miss G. F. Bradford, Thos. Brazell, H. Bridgman, Miss C. Bright, Mrs. Jacob. Brodie, Robt. Bromehead, Mrs. E. C. Bruce, Hon. Mrs. Burnside, Miss A. E. Burroughs, G. H. Caldecott, Mrs. R. Cannot, É. H. Carlile, W. A. Chakrabutty, P. W. Clarke, E. T. Clarke, H. J. Clennell, L. Clennell, Mrs.

Clinton, Miss. Cohen, Miss May Coiley, Miss F. A. Conybeare, F. C. Cooke, J. G. Critchley, W. D'Arcy, Miss E. Davidson, Thos. Dew, J. H. Dickenson, L. J. Dixon, Miss J. Dobson, John G. Driver, S. A. Elder, Miss Erskine, Miss C. C. Evans, J. Winter. Ewes, Miss F. Fairweather, A. Fisher, Miss K. Foot, Miss A. N. Fox, Herbert Gates, Ed. T. Gemmill, Mrs. Girdlestone, E. T. Green, David. Gümpel, C. G. Hammond, Miss F. Hare, H. S. Harrison, Frederic. Hartley, Mrs. Haycraft, Miss. Haynes, W. B. Higgs, F. A. Himes, Miss A. Hoffmann, G. H. Howard, Henry. Hume, Miss A.

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Appendix.

The following series of Questions, drawn up by the meeting of delegates from the various Ethical Societies, &c.. was submitted to and approved by the Committee of the West London Ethical Society:—

QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES.

Considering the fact that the whole community is agreed as to the supreme importance of moral training, whereas there is no general agreement as to the desirability of imparting any particular form of religious belief in the State-supported Schools, the Ethical Societies of London have drawn up the following questions for the use of persons interested in the coming School Board Election.*

- (I). Are you in favour of the issue of a Syllabus of Religious and Moral Instruction which shall lay stress on the inculcation of Practical Morals rather than on the details of Biblical History and Geography, and on points of theological doctrine?
- (2). In accordance with question (1), will you discourage the practice of giving Prizes in Biblical Knowledge?
- (3). Do you support the use of other aids besides the Bible in the Religious and Moral Instruction given in the Board Schools?
- (4). Will you do your best to secure that no disability whatever fall on teachers exempted from conducting or taking part in Religious Observances which imply beliefs they may not share?
- (5). Will you see that Section VII. of the Education Act (permitting parents to withdraw their children from Religious Instruction) shall not be made a dead letter from want of

^{*} These questions are intended to supplement, not to be a substitute for others, which it may seem desirable to put on such subjects as extended accommodation, increase of teachers, etc. They can be supplied at 5/- per 1,000 by applying to Mr. J. H. Muirhead, 30 Aynhoe Road, W., of whom further information respecting this Circular may also be obtained.

sufficient accommodation in the Schools to provide such children with a class-room during the hour when Religious Instruction is given?

[Note.—The Instruction from the London School Board is that "During the time of religious teaching or religious observance any children withdrawn from such teaching or observance shall receive separate instruction in secular subjects." This Instruction is commonly neglected.]

(6). (a) Will you endeavour to secure the appointment of School Managers who will consider the interests of the Scholars without theological bias? (b) Will you do what you can to promote the more careful selection of School Managers? (c) Will you vote for a proposal that School Managers be appointed for a term of years only, subject to re-appointment?

(7). Are you favourable to the institution of Training Colleges for Teachers where the study of systematic Ethics shall be substituted for lectures on Divinity or Dogmatic

Theology?

[Note.—The need both of providing additional Colleges for the training of Teachers and of introducing large reforms into the administration of those that already exist is widely admitted among educational reformers].

Issued in the name of-

South Place Ethical Society: Hon. Sec., Mrs. C. Fletcher Smith, South Place Chapel, Finsbury.

THE LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY: Hon. Sec., J. H. MUIRHEAD, 30 Aynhoe Road, W.

THE EAST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY: Hon. Sec., Miss Vallance, The Deanery, Stratford, E.

THE WEST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY: Hon. Sec., FINDLAY MUIRHEAD, 10 Leighton Crescent, N.W.

THE SOUTH LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY: Hon. Sec., Miss F. Law, 30 Victoria Road, Peckham.

THE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION: Hon. Sec., GEORGE MARGERISON, 4 Titchfield Terrace, N.W.

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